

# ELSA in Action

Carey Baptist Grammar School  
Early Learning Centre  
Melton, Victoria

## Carey Baptist Grammar School Early Learning Centre

At Carey, it is important to us that the youngest members of our community feel secure, nurtured, supported and engaged in their learning and play. Each child in the ELC is valued for who they are. Our ELC program offers many exciting and different experiences for the children but, most importantly, they are also given the freedom and encouragement to explore their own interests and curiosity. Teachers closely observe and document each child's development, learning and play, creating a lasting record of each student's educational journey throughout the year: physically, emotionally, intellectually and socially.



*Playing the ELSA Bird game*



*Making music with apps*



*Playing on the apps*



**Robyn Croucher**  
Centre Director



**Anna Lee**  
Kindergarten teacher

**ELSA**  
EARLY LEARNING STEM AUSTRALIA

“ At the beginning I wondered if I could do ELSA, but once we got into it, I felt that a lot of the things that ELSA had provided were actually things we were already doing, so that made it much easier. We just kept doing what we’re doing, but we just added ELSA to the program and we’re making time for the children to use the apps so that they can experience the whole ERA process. It’s been really, really interesting, and I’ve loved learning about the children and how much they know about all different things, like patterning, perspectives and birds. ”

- Anna



Drawing a map of how to get to kindy

“ It’s been interesting [in the second year] to see a different group of children use it and you can see the dynamics of the group slightly change how you use it. It was good because I had some things that have worked really well for us, so I could pass onto Anna to sort of short circuit some of her work, but then once again, a different group, so some different needs. ”

- Robyn

“ ELSA has certainly enriched and broadened my understanding of STEM. I think that notion of the Habits of Mind and questions really enriches it and broadens the whole notion. To me it was a winner from the start. That very first day, there was so much talk about it being play-based, and I think immediately everyone in the room thought ‘Okay, we can do this’. ”

- Robyn



Playing on the apps

“ ELSA has made me really proactive and really taught me a lot about the children in our room. It has made me have a lot more one-on-one time with individuals and small groups of children. You try to spend time with certain children but it doesn’t always happen. We can be very busy and we can miss a lot of children. But getting them through the iPad activities, just getting them to have turns, and sitting with them, I didn’t realise what all the children were capable of. I was saying to my assistant, I never knew this about this child – this is amazing. And if I hadn’t done the ELSA programme, I wouldn’t have known. ”

- Anna

